

AUSTRALIAN WAVESKI SURFING

COMPETITION RULE BOOK

2026

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the development of this competition rule book which is a living document. This competition rule book is aligned with the World Waveski Surfing Association Competition Rules

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sections

- 1. Administration**
- 2. Competition Rules**
- 3. Judging**
- 4 . Judging Criteria**
- 5. Interference**
- 6. Duties of the Tabulator**
- 7. Statistically Evaluating Judging Performance**
- 8. Emergency Procedures**

Appendices

Appendix 1 Judging and scoring in divisions with 5 or less competitors

Appendix 2 Gradings

Appendix 3 Protest Form

Appendix 4 Version release changes

Appendix 5 Accreditation Criteria

DEFINITION OF A WAVESKI

DEFINITION OF A WAVESKI

Mandatory – Competition Contest Organisers have the responsibility to check craft prior to events commencing. If the mandatory requirements are not met, the competitor must seek an alternative Waveski.

- No longer than 12 feet / 3.66 metres (feet to metres feet x 0.3048).
- Must sit on top with bottom flush on seat.
- Feet/limbs must be in front of body (no kneeling, lying prone or standing on the waveski).
- Propelled by use of paddle not by any form of electric motor.

Recommendations:-

- Seat belt /quad belt/thigh belt and supporting straps such as foot/knee to assist in securing rider to the Waveski.
- Foot wells to assist with stability.
- Fin(s) to provide directional steering.

Safety suggestions

- Leash rope to provide support to the rider if they become separated from the waveski and/or not competent with eskimo rolling in all conditions and/or waveski surfing in challenging surf.
- Helmets – noting that there are varying types and levels of helmets available which can assist in protecting waveski surfers from adverse weather and temperatures, skin lacerations from hitting rocks and reefs,
- Impact vests and protective flotation devices which can assist waveski surfers.

SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATION AUSTRALIAN WAVESKI SURFING (AWS)

AWS events include the following divisions:

- a) Open (Men and Women 13 years plus)
- b) Open Women (13 years plus women only)
- c) Qualifiers (both genders- participants as determined by AWS Grading)
- d) Challengers (both genders- participants as determined by AWS Grading)
- e) Adaptive Open – (both genders- participants as determined by WWSA Adaptive Classification – *currently under review*)

NOTE- Qualifiers and Challengers score points for their separate sections and also for the Open section. Likewise Challengers also score points in the qualifier section.

Age Divisions – both genders (male, female)

Note- A competitor's age group will be determined by their age on the first day of the first official day of the AWS competition season.

- Junior/Seniors under 39 years with provision to add cadets (under 17 years)
- Master 39 - 54 years
- Grand Master 55 - 59 years
- Legends 60 - 64 years
- Champions 65 years plus

NOTE – Where divisions have only one competitor 2nd place points are awarded for that particular division noting that the competitor must attend the event and enter the water in divisions where it is not possible to join another division; (Adaptive and Women's).

In all other divisions competitors can either surf up or surf down in their age division however will still be awarded 2nd place points for their respective age. – **Please see Appendix 4**

If a single entry division competitor surfs in another age division the existing competitors will retain their result eg one grand champion enters the champions division and finishes in 1st place. The existing champion entrants will amortise up with their results 2nd place becomes 1st, 3rd place becomes 2nd and so on.

Registration

A competitor can only score points in the Australian Waveski Surfing Championship circuit if they have residency (this includes Australian temporary residential visas while waiting for permanent residency; excluding holiday/tourist/gap year visas) and have paid the relevant membership fees with Paddle Australia (PA) and contest entry fee.

1. Entry fees and PA membership fee is fully paid prior to confirmation of entry into the championships.

2. Verification of age may be required with identification such as driver's license, passport, certificate of birth.
3. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that all the details on their registration/entry form are correct including age and up to date emergency contact details.
4. Indemnity form completed by checking the boxes on the entry form agreeing to terms and conditions.
5. Competitors remain competitors for the duration of the event regardless of whether they have been eliminated from the competition or are waiting to surf their heat/division/category.

Rule Changes

The rules of competition as set out in the rule book apply to all competitors competing in the AWS Circuit and AWS accredited events. Rules can be altered and changed to reflect contemporary practice giving all competitors sufficient notice and where indicated consultation prior to changes being implemented

AWS Circuit and Australian Open

The Australian Champions of each division and rankings in Australia are determined by the Australian Championship Point score which includes an Australian Open Championship event with double points rating.

The Points System, Seeding, Gradings and Draw

For every AWS - accredited event that a competitor enters, they will earn Championship Points (across all divisions), with double points on offer at the Australian Open.

Competitors must participate in no less than two (2) tour events to qualify for the Australian Tour Championships.

These results plus double points from the Australian Open, are then totaled and competitors will receive their final ranking in the Australian Championship.

The points from each contest will be available on the AWS website where every competitor can view their ranking for the year at any time during the course of the contest season.

Seeding The first contest of the year will be seeded from the National Championships of the preceding year. The Australian Open is based on results from the AWS Circuit,. The rest of the contests in the AWS circuit will be seeded using the cumulative results of the preceding contests conducted in that year. Each division and age group will be seeded as above using the results from that Division or age group.

Where competitors are progressing into a new age group or division, their open division result will be used to assist in seeding their new age group or division.

The objective of seeding is to separate the top riders to achieve a more even and competitive contest and to avoid the top riders from meeting early in the draw.

After the initial competition for each division the seeding will be based on the accumulative points gained by each competitor in their respective division. The Australian Open seeding will be determined by the total of points from the highest results from two (2) events.

In exceptional circumstances where circuit competitions were disrupted enough not to make the circuit points viable, the Australian Open would be seeded on the previous Australian Championship results.

In the event of a tie for first on the points, the tie will be broken by ascertaining which surfer scored the most wins from the Grand Prix events. This would not include the Australian Open as it had already been counted twice due to double points. If the surfers were still tied after that then second places and third places and fourth places would be individually compared to break the tie. This would apply to top 4 positions in all divisions.

Gradings of Competitors for the AWS Circuit and the Australian Open Events

Prior to the beginning of the AWS Circuit and the Australian Open Events, the AWS Contest Committee will use all information available to them to grade riders based on objective and measurable criteria. *Please refer to Appendix 2 for explanation*

The intent of the gradings is to encourage competitors to surf against others of a similar ability and as well improve their competence in the surf.

Competitors are able to meet with the Contest Committee and discuss in an open and safe manner any concerns which they may have regarding where they might be placed in the divisions. Decisions regarding placement of a competitor in a division remains at the direction of the Contest Committee.

Format for The AWS Australian Titles Circuit and Australian Open

The format for the contests will follow an elimination format with repechages in the Open, Qualifiers and Challengers, Age, Adaptive and Women's Divisions. The exception to this will be in divisions where there are five (5) or less competitors which will then be run on the best of 3 rounds.

Factors that will influence the draw and flow will include but not limited to the number of competitors and surf conditions.

Heats will be made up of a maximum of four surfers, five man heats will be permitted if the circumstances so dictate. The Contest Director and/or the AWS appointed contest committee member doing the will decide the composition of heats after entries have closed using the AWS point score for seeding. A minimum of 50% of the waveski surfers in a heat will advance in both the repechage and winners round.

In categories/divisions where there are two but five or less riders, the division is run as three (3) straight finals with best of two or best of three aggregate rounds – please see end of rule book with explanation of aggregate points for straight finals.

In the event of inclement weather, adverse surf conditions and/or the number of competitor entries are such that the event cannot be completed in the allocated time frame, the contest director in conjunction with the AWS committee may alter the composition of heat numbers (from man on man, or to 3-5 man heats) and heat times and may decide not to run all divisions and age groups.

The Open division to be given priority. If possible sections and divisions should be completed at another Open event. If this should occur then all competitors are advised as soon as information is known.

Entry Fees

Entry Fees are to be paid at time of lodgement of Live Heats entry. Fees must be paid prior to the competition commencing. Unpaid entry fees will result in competitor not being able to participate.

SECTION 2: COMPETITION RULES

Contest Board

The contest board/s should show the draw for the contest, including progression of surfers through the heats. Changes to the draw should only occur if an error has been made, a rider or riders omitted from the draw, surfers withdraw which makes a number of heats unnecessary and time can be saved by altering the draw fairly or one of the top 2 seeds have not turned up and slight reseeding of the top 2 is required.

Mechanical Communication Device Policy during Competition

The AWS prohibits any mechanical / electronic communication device, (including megaphones) that links a competitor in the action of competing with another party during AWS competitive events other than used by the contest director or AWS committee.

Photographers and Drones

Any water photographer whether using a drone, video cam and /or still camera should seek permission from the contest director before entering the contest zone. At no time should any photographers impact on the safety of competitors' and interfere with any part of the competition.

Contest Format and safety briefing

There has to be a minimum of 18 inches of wave height before surf can be deemed contestable.

The Contest Director and AWS Committee determines at the start of the day the program

of events.

All competitors and contest officials must attend the safety briefing prior to the event commencing.

At no time should any event commence before the Contest Director has given permission to do so.

To ensure the most suitable conditions for the various section, the program of events may be altered with at least 1 hour notice. The Live Heat schedule will be updated accordingly and information about any changes will be placed on a notice board or on the contest board. It is the responsibility of competitors to familiarize themselves with this information.

Heat Timing and Wave Counts

Heat Times Ideally each heat should be 20 minutes in duration, 15-minute heats may be used if required to save time due to large competitor numbers. Finals may be given longer times depending on available time and surf conditions. Five man heats if time allows may be extended by five minutes. The contest director in conjunction with AWS Committee will make the decision on heat durations.

Ties

a) In a two, three, four, five -man heat, a general judging consensus using plus/minus system on the judging tally sheet must break ties. Where scores cannot be separated then the plus and minus system is used to decide the best two waveski surfers, then used again to split those two waveski surfers.

b) Count backs on tied judging sheets are to go to the highest scoring wave from the best 2 waves, and if necessary continue to the next highest wave until the tie is broken. In the event that the tie cannot be broken in this manner, the tabulator would then count the best 3 waves, the best 4 waves and up until the tie is broken on the tied sheet only.

c) Only unbreakable ties on the overall tally sheet will be re-surfed but the Contest Director may decide due to time constraints or if conditions are suitable allow an extra surfer to progress rather than re-surf the heat. Finals however will need to be resurfed or equal status applied eg two surfers have the same result and the tie cannot be broken – the Contest director may decided to award equal result at the higher level such as a 2 person final; then equal 1st place would be awarded to both surfers.

a) A competitor must collect competition rash shirt at 10 minutes before their heat starts and must return the competition

Where heats only contain 2 competitors because of a 3rd and 4th competitor withdrawing from the heat, then consideration will be given to reducing the heat time to 10-15 minutes subject to conditions. However, the two competitors may mutually agree to 'flip a coin' to determine 1st and 2nd place or one rider may concede the 1st to the other rider and accept second place. **NOTE:** This doesn't apply to finals which must be surfed.

Wave Counts and Tabulation

- b) to decide a winner in all heats, the best 2, waves on each Judge Sheet, are tabulated and placed on each judge's sheet. The results are then transposed to a Master Tally Sheet. In the case of a five Judges panel the high and low Judge for each waveski surfer is crossed off and the three remaining added. The lowest total first, next lowest second etc. In the case of heats where there are 3 judges, the heat scores are added to get a total for the two best waves for each competitor for each judge.

singlet direct to the correct area at the end of their heat. Failure to comply unless there are extenuating circumstances may lead to a penalty infringement ie half of second highest scoring wave. The competitor must take responsibility for wearing the correct coloured competition singlet. If the competitor wears the incorrect coloured shirt or no competition shirt, nil points will be awarded until the correct coloured competition singlet is worn.

Competitors must put on their competition singlet and make a definite effort to paddle out to the take off zone to register a result. Penalty for not turning up for a heat unless there are extenuating circumstances may be elimination from that division. Competitors must ensure that they avail themselves of all information pertaining to the day's draw and timetable of events.

Competitors faced with back-to-back heats must let the contest director know as soon as possible so that a singlet colour change is made if possible and a delay for the start of the next heat is organized so that the surfer can get back in position. If time allows the contest director may change the running order of heats to avoid back to back heats as long as all competitors affected can be notified to give them a reasonable time to get ready and no other surfer is then caused to surf back to back.

The contest director will determine 'free surfing' for competitors, free surfing may be not allowed at the competition beach or maybe restricted to a certain area. Competitors who have their coloured singlets for an upcoming heat must not free surf prior to their heat in the competition shirt. The contest area will be marked by contest flags, the flags are to keep others out not the competitors in. A competitor may catch a wave outside of the contest area flags but the further away from the area the greater the risk of a wave being missed. Penalty infringement half of second highest scoring wave.

- c) Official timing of all heats will be done by an automatic timer with manual back up in the event of timing malfunction
- d) All heats are started from in the line-up under the Contest Directors direction. A five minute visual warning is to be given prior to the finish of any heat.
- e) Siren or horn blasts must be used to start and finish heats unless council restrictions prohibit the use of the siren.
- f) A large disc system or flag or light may also be used, green to start and yellow for the last five minutes.
- g) The official end of the heat is when the siren is first audible to the Judges. A red disc or flag is used to indicate the end of the heat.

- h) The disc or flag or light must be showing red.
- i) The Head Judge and Spotter, if being used, otherwise it will be by consensus by the judging panel, will determine if a wave has been caught within the final seconds before the heat concludes. Waves caught upon 'zero seconds' remaining in the countdown or upon the final siren shall not be scored. i.e Once the siren sounds, zero seconds remain and the heat has concluded.
- j) Any waveski surfer intentionally maneuvering and riding during the progress of the next heat will be scored interference. Waveski surfers must not ride a wave in the contest area prior to the start of their heat or the wave will not be scored. Once the siren has sounded to indicate that the heat has finished, competitors must not perform maneuvers on a wave into the beach unless they are up and riding before the end of the heat. The surfers should ride a wave in with only enough turns to ensure they exit the contest zone as quickly and safely as possible, or they should paddle out of the contest zone. The penalty for surfing a wave after the heat has finished can be the loss of half of the second scoring wave.
- k) At the end of and during the heat, the waveski rider must be clearly in possession of the wave face, making a maneuver for the wave to be scored. It will be at the sole discretion of the judges to call the waveski rider 'up and riding'. (The waveski rider must be propelled by the wave).
- l) In the case of a water start the standard time between heats shall be 30 seconds, unless unforeseen circumstances arise.
- m) Under no circumstances will there be any time extensions once a heat has started and if the heat is interrupted for any reason it will be stopped by the Contest Director. It will be resumed at the time it was stopped and will run for the originally set period. There is discretion to decide whether to completely re run the heat in its entirety, or partially, or not re run at all.

When heats are in progress any unauthorised waveski competitor in the competition area will be penalised. This also includes competitors who have completed their events and are no longer in the competition. This ruling also applies to clearing the water before the start of each day's event.

- n) Where water starts are being used, competitors in the next heat will be permitted to paddle out on the flats (i.e., with five minutes to go, unless otherwise advised) and will congregate out of the line up outside the take-off area. Competitors may paddle towards the line-up once the signal that the previous heat has finished. The Contest Director may vary the paddle out time during inclement conditions. The Contest Director may delay the start of the heat if a competitor is doing back to back heats to enable that surfer to reach the take-off zone, or for other official requirements such as interference appeals or tabulating issues.

Heats are not stopped unless there is an injury to a competitor(s) or other emergency such as a surfer in difficulty or a shark sighting or conditions have become dangerous. A particular division or round may be stopped if the surf conditions change to such an extent

that competitors are compromised. The round does not have to be completed before the event is stopped. Examples of this include stormy and/or on-shore conditions or where waves are almost non-existent or have gone flat. In the event that conditions deteriorate, the Contest Director and Committee will meet to discuss postponement of the competition or relocation to another venue.

o) The Contest Director or delegate is the only authorized person who can give the schedule of events.

p) The Contest Director must update the schedule, posted for all the competitors to see on one of the contest boards giving as much notice as possible. Any discrepancies need to be brought to the attention to the Contest Director as soon as possible.

q) Outside assistance – Competitors are able to receive assistance to run waveskis and paddles up the beach, repair damaged equipment, exchange waveskis and paddles. Competitors are also able to receive assistance in the water to retrieve/replace paddles and surf equipment as long as the person(s) who provides the assistance does not encroach on other competitors, and/or assists the competitor(s) in any way that might give them an advantage. Penalty for person(s) providing assistance where it is deemed that a competitor(s) has been given an unfair advantage is loss of half of second scoring wave levied against the competitor(s).

Outside assistance where competitors are given an unfair advantage over other competitors. This may include waving of paddles, whistling by outsiders indicating sets of waves are coming, or use of technology to communicate to a competitor in the water – penalty for first offence; loss of half of second scoring wave. Second offence - elimination from the particular division.

s) First Aid - In the event that competitors require assistance because of an emergency including separation from paddle and/or waveski, injury in the surf or experiencing difficulties which put them in danger; the heat will be stopped by continuous sounding of the hooter and raising of the red flag. That would also be announced over the loud speaker if available. All available assistance will be rendered to assist the competitor(s) needing help. If the situation is not deemed dangerous to the competitor's safety the heat need not be stopped.

The stopped heat will be recommenced at a time to be advised for the amount of time left prior to the stoppage. In the event of a shark sighting the hooter will be sounded continuously and the black flag will be waved, all surfers are to exit the water as soon as possible. If a surfer sights the shark from the water they should warn other competitors if possible and signal to the beach by raising their paddle horizontally and then exit the water as soon as possible. If available a drone should be used to check if the shark has moved on or high vantage points used to give a clear view of the water. As much as possible other water users should also be warned and if a surf lifesaver is located nearby they also should be advised.

The heat will be stopped at the time of the emergency (surfer in difficulty and/or shark sighting). The Contest Director and the AWS committee will decide when the emergency is over and it is considered safe to return to the water. The heat will run for any of the time remaining from when it was stopped when all the surfers are back in position for the completion of that heat.

Unsportsmanlike Behaviour and code of conduct

Competition – If a competitor(s) deliberately encroaches on another competitor(s) performance on a wave(s) the penalty for the first offence is loss of half of second scoring wave and penalty for the second offence is elimination from the division (the competitor(s) must leave the water immediately). Examples of intimidatory behaviour or conduct unbecoming to the competition include – blocking a competitor so they can't take off or utilise the waves as they desire, using a paddle or Waveski or other items of equipment to 'balk' a competitor, abusive language with intimidatory gesticulation.

As the penalty for the above offences are very serious, the Judges will need to ensure that they are vigilant in their observation of competitors in the heats. There is a very fine line between competitive strategies and unsportsmanlike behaviour. Please refer to Protest section for further advice on lodging a protest.

The Competition Venue and Site – Abusive behaviour towards other competitors and/or contest committee, judges and volunteers or public displays of personal equipment abuse, which brings the sport into disrepute will result in the offending competitors being warned and depending on the infringement may be removed from the competition venue. Further review will take place to ascertain whether the behaviour constitutes a review of the competitors participation in on going events.

Alcohol Consumption and Socially Unacceptable Behaviour – Alcohol is not to be consumed by competitors at the competition site during the competition. Competitors knowingly consuming alcohol, presenting in a drug induced or intoxicated manner and/or behaving in a socially unacceptable manner will be removed from the competition site and will face disciplinary actions determined by the AWS Committee. Penalties may include elimination from the competition and review of membership.

Protests

- a) Any competitor has the right to protest the result of a heat/behaviour of a competitor(s) All protests must be lodged in writing within 20 minutes of the result of the heat and/or within 20 minutes of an incident occurring. **Please see Appendix 3 - Protest form**
- b) The merits of each protest will be considered by the Contest Director who may consult with the relevant judging panel, tabulator and AWS committee members. The Contest Director will have the final ruling on the protest.
- c) In the case of an interference call, the offending rider will be notified of the interference call, by the contest director or tabulator as soon as it is known. Any protest that is lodged in respect of the interference must be submitted within twenty (20) minutes of the offending rider being officially notified ie results are on the official results board.
- d) Video tape can be used for evidence in the event of a protest providing it is viewed by contest director within 10 minutes of the protest being lodged.
- e) The Contest Director will convey the result of the appeal to the offending rider, and

their decision will be final.

f) The Contest Director and Contest Committee is able to impose a monetary levy to accompany a protest.

g) Protests contested that are successful will result in full refund of monetary levy.

SECTION 3: JUDGING

Competitors, sponsors, spouses, relatives or any person(s) that may potentially have a conflict of interest are not to judge. At all events, there should be no less than one accredited and credential judge. Competitors who are inexperienced at judging or have demonstrated poor judging should receive coaching from an experienced judge before being allowed to judge a heat.

Judging panels: Panels for each heat will consist of 3 judges, 5 judges may be used if numbers of suitable judges were present. The contest director may appoint an acting head judge if they deem it necessary. If possible a spotter should also be used.

Check-In: Paid Judges should check in to the relevant contest official at least 15 minutes prior to heat starting time allowing time to get a realistic view of the waves, and the surfing standard.

Judge Details: The name of the judge together with the division event and heat number, must be entered in the appropriate sections of the judging sheet before the next heat starts.

Quality Judging: Each judge must give 100% effort, maximum concentration is essential to ensure personal bias is eliminated and that top efficiency is reached.

Judges are to score every ride by each competitor.

The Judges to be used in the finals will be those who have shown the highest degree of consistency over the contest.

Judges are responsible for ruling interference situations described in Section 5.

Scoring: The wave scoring will be done from zero to ten. Broken into one tenth decimal increments,

e.g. 5.2, 7.3, 8.1

Separation: Judges should be visually separated and it is the responsibility of the contest director to see that the judges do not discuss scores or interference calls. (Unable to see each other's score sheets).

Missed Waves: If a judge misses a wave or part of a wave, they should place an ' M ' in the square of the manual Judges Sheet, the tabulators can then check which wave was missed and if able to ascertain that average out by looking at the other judges scores for that wave.

Other Errors: At times, errors of a special or unique nature occur with respect to judging, this includes timing and scores. The contest director can consult with the head tabulator, along with the Judges, and will rule on these special circumstances case by case. At their own discretion, the Contest Director may consult with those qualified observers (defined as off-duty judges, spotters or other officials) who may have witnessed the incident in question.

SECTION 4 : JUDGING CRITERIA

Before Judging

Make sure you take part in the pre-event meeting to establish the criteria and rules that will be used. You must be at the judges' tower punctually. This means one hour before your first heat, so that you can check conditions and be available in case a judge does not show up. The judges must know the rules and be able to implement them in any situation. Study the breakdown of the criteria mentioned below and in SECTION 3 - JUDGING

CRITERIA TO BE USED IN JUDGING:

A surfer must perform radical controlled manoeuvres in the critical section of a wave with speed, power and flow to maximize scoring potential. Innovative/progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire (manoeuvres) will be taken into consideration when rewarding points for waves ridden.

The surfer who executes the criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the better waves shall be rewarded with the higher scores

Waveski Criteria

The criteria have purposely been broken into two sentences. The first sentence being the major emphasis of the criteria, concerns the manoeuvres, how radical and controlled they are and the section of the wave they are performed on.

The criteria can be graded into four main sections:

a) **Radical Controlled Manoeuvres:**

This is by far the most important part of the criteria. Modern day manoeuvres basically constitute change of direction of the board on the wave (not the waveski surfer on the board). Such manoeuvres would include re-entries, cutbacks, floaters, aerials, tube rides etc. How radical they are, followed by the amount of control and commitment put into each of them will score.

Power, Commitment, Control: *It is important to note that even if a surfer has completed 90% of the manoeuvre it WILL NOT score if they lose control and fall off.*

b) **Most Critical Section:**

This part of the criteria describes where on the wave manoeuvres should be performed to score the maximum points. The critical section of the wave is the pocket closest to the curl. The degree of commitment and the risk involved in performing close to the curl is the reason that it scores higher. The degree of difficulty and the risk taken should be rewarded according.

c) **With Speed, Power and Flow**

Speed and Power become more apparent when performed in the critical section of the wave. Generally, the greater the speed the more powerful the manoeuvre will be when performed in the critical section of the wave. Flow relates to how the surfer links their turns together on the wave and how manoeuvres are functional in regards to where they are performed. A surfer that is flowing with the wave generally will look as though he/she is reading the wave well and performing the manoeuvres that are suitable to the sections

being surfed.

d) Innovative and progressive surfing

Innovation is a critical element that top surfers may employ in order to distinguish themselves from fellow competitors. Innovative manoeuvres by definition require commitment and hence when executed require significant reward.

e) Maximum degree of difficulty and commitment

Difficulty relates to commitment and control reflects skill that may be masked by flow thus this last sentence is a simplistic overview.

Wave selection is the single most important factor for a waveski surfer in their heat. The selected waves dictate the manoeuvres they are able to perform. The best wave may not necessarily be the biggest. The waveski surfer does not automatically score high because of wave size or quality. They must comply with the criteria in order to unlock the potential of the wave.

Judging Scale -The zero to ten point scoring system is used by the AWS.

SECTION 5 : INTERFERENCE CALLS

1. Basic Rule

- a) The waveski surfer deemed to have the inside position for a wave has unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that ride, interference will be called if during that ride a majority of Judges feel that a fellow competitor has possibly hindered the scoring potential of the waveski surfer deemed to have right of way for the wave by blocking, causing the wave to break prematurely or in any other way.
- b) Anyone who takes off in front of a waveski surfer with right-of-way in non ONE on ONE heats has the chance to ride or kick out of the wave without being called interference, unless they hinder the scoring potential of the waveski surfer with right of way by any means. These include excessive hassling, or breaking down a section.
- c) Anyone riding a wave in one on one heats has the chance to kick out of the wave immediately without being called interference when the priority waveski surfer using their right of way catches that wave, unless they hinder the scoring potential of the surfer with the right of way by any means. These include excessive hassling, or breaking down a section or other applicable paddling interferences

2. Right-of-Way in Four Person, Three Person and Non Priority - One on One Situations

Wave possession or right of way in these situations will vary slightly under the following categories as determined by the nature of the contest venue. Basically it is the responsibility of the judge to determine which waveski surfer has the inside position based on whether the wave is a superior right or left. If at the initial point of take-off neither the right nor left can be deemed superior, then the right of way will go to the first waveski

surfer who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction (by making an obvious right or left turn).

a. Point Break

When there is only one available direction on any given wave, the waveski surfer on the inside shall have unconditional right of way for the entire duration of that wave. This would include point breaks, some reef and beach breaks when one direction is clearly the dominant direction to surf or if the contest director has officially deemed the break as a certain direction ie a the wave is a left hand break.

b. One Peak Break (Reef or Beach)

One peak situation: if there is a single well defined peak with both a left and a right available, at the initial point of take-off and neither the right or left can be deemed superior then the right of way will go to the first waveski surfer who makes a definite turn in their chosen direction (by making an obvious right or left turn).

A second waveski surfer may go in the opposite direction on the same wave without incurring a penalty, providing they do not interfere with the first waveski surfer who has established right of way (i.e. the 2nd rider may not cross the path of the first waveski surfer in order to gain the opposite side of the peak unless they do so without hindering, in the majority of judges opinion, the inside waveski surfer).

c. Multiple Peak Situation

With multiple random peaks. In these conditions wave possession may vary slightly according to the nature of an individual wave:

- i) With Two Peaks, there will be cases where one swell will have two separate, defined peaks far apart that eventually meet at some point. Although two waveski surfers may each have inside position on those respective peaks, the waveski surfer who first manoeuvres shall be deemed to have wave possession and the second waveski surfer must give way by cutting back or kicking out before hindering the right of way surfer
- ii) If two waveski surfers take off and manoeuvre at the same time on two separate peaks that eventually meet, then:
 - a. If they both give way by cutting back or kicking out, so that neither is hindered, there will be no penalty.
 - b. If they cross paths and collide or hinder one another, the judges will penalise the waveski surfer who has been the aggressor at the point of contact.
 - c. If neither waveski surfer gives way by cutting back or kicking out and both share responsibility for the confrontation, then a double interference will be called.

3. Right-of-Way in Priority One on One Situations – neutral priority until the first wave is ridden

- a. In a two person/one on one heat the priority disc system will determine wave

possession. The waveski surfer with priority has unconditional right of way for both directions on the wave they select.

- b. The second waveski surfer cannot take-off on the same wave as the priority surfer, regardless of direction or distance between them, unless the waveski surfer does not hinder the scoring potential of the waveski surfer with priority.
- c. As soon as the priority waveski surfer begins to manoeuvre on their chosen wave, the second waveski surfer must stop paddling at that point and give way. If a waveski surfer continues to paddle or ride the same wave as a priority waveski surfer, they will be called priority interference, unless the waveski surfer does not hinder the scoring potential of the waveski surfer with priority.
- d. If they incur an interference penalty they will also lose priority.

4. The Right-of-Way Criteria

The choice of right-of-way criteria for each of the above possible situations is the responsibility of the Head Judge or the senior available Judge in that order.

5. Priority Rules

- a. The contest director and the AWS committee will make the decision if surfer on surfer priority system will be used in one on one heats. The Head Judge will be the priority referee using coloured discs corresponding to the waveski surfers' colours in the water to indicate priority. Priority discs must be located on one end of the judging booths.
- b. A buoy, where applicable, will be placed just outside the surfing break, which surfers use by paddling around to gain priority.
- c. Placement of the buoy will be decided by the Contest Committee. In the absence of a buoy the Head Judge will determine the priority take off zone.

Wave priority is lost as soon as the surfer:

- i) Rides a wave
- ii) Paddles for a wave and misses the wave at the start of a heat, it is neutral priority until the first wave has been ridden. The second waveski surfer gets automatic priority for any other wave they choose, unless the waveski surfer rides the wave before the heat starts. If this happens then that wave will not count and the remaining waveski surfer will get automatic first priority.

From then on the only way to establish wave priority is by paddling around the buoy or to the take off zone.

The first waveski surfer around the buoy or to the take off zone has priority and if the other waveski surfer wishes they may also paddle around the buoy or take off zone to establish second priority. Wave priority is indicated by the Head Judge by showing a

coloured disc which will correspond with the waveski surfer's competition singlet. If no waveski surfer has wave priority, no discs are shown and the interference rule will determine priority.

- d. A waveski surfer cannot lose second priority by paddling for, and missing a wave but if the waveski surfer catches the wave and falls off as they attempt to surf the wave, they lose second priority.
- e. If a waveski surfer inside has second priority and their opponent paddles for, but misses a wave, the inside waveski surfer automatically assumes priority. Therefore, if they also paddle for, but miss the wave, then they have also lost priority. That is, both waveski surfers have then lost priority even though only one wave has passed and there was not sufficient time to change the priority disc.
- f. The waveski surfer who has priority will also not be allowed to paddle in front of the other waveski surfer to deliberately impede them from catching a wave or they will lose priority. The waveski surfer will also lose priority if in the opinion of the Head Judge they place themselves in the wave for a non-paddle take off, in order to prevent the other waveski surfer from catching that wave.
- g. Priority interference may be called individually by the Head Judge, only if the majority (3 of 4) do not see the incident.
- h. In events where the priority buoy is moved out of position during a heat, towards the beach, the Head Judge will allocate wave priority. In cases where the priority buoy moves to approximately more than a 30-second paddle from the line-up, the buoy will stay in use for the remainder of that heat. In all cases the buoy cannot be replaced until after the heat.
- i. Allocation is based on whom the Head Judge believes has reached the line-up first. In cases where both waveski surfers appear to reach the lineup at the same time priority will go to the waveski surfer who did not have the last priority. Under priority allocation it is the waveski surfers responsibility to continually check the priority disc for verification. Under no circumstances must the priority rule be suspended in one on one competitions.
- j. If it is impossible for the Head Judge to establish who has paddled around the priority buoy or got to the take off zone first then no priority will be given unless the waveski surfers in the heat, when asked agree that only one has priority. If neither agrees then no priority will be given and once the first have from then on has been ridden, the second waveski surfer will get automatic priority for any other wave they choose.
- k. When there is no priority; the interference rule shall determine wave possession. Both waveski surfers may ride the wave in opposite directions, provided they do not interfere with each other.
- l. In all cases where a dispute results from a malfunction of the Priority system, the Head Judge and Contest Committee will arbitrate.

6. Snaking

- a) The waveski surfer who is farthest inside at the initial point of take-off and has established wave possession is entitled to that wave for the duration of their ride, even though another surfer subsequently takes off behind them. The Judges will not penalize the waveski surfer because they have 'right-of-way' even though they are in front.
- b) If the second waveski surfer has not hindered the original waveski surfer with right- of-way, then the judges may choose not to impose a penalty and will score both waveski surfers' rides.
- c) A waveski surfer may not take off on the opposite side of a broken wave peak to gain possession of the opposite wave face, when a waveski surfer has already established possession on the inside of the peak. An interference will be called if the majority of the judges feel that the waveski surfer surfing/riding from behind the broken peak has hindered the scoring potential of the waveski surfer who has established possession of the inside of the broken peak.
- d) If, in the opinion of the judges, the second waveski surfer has interfered with (snaked) the original waveski surfer with right-of-way by causing them to pull out or lose the wave, then interference may be called on the second waveski surfer, even though they are behind the first when the penalty is called.
- e) The above situations apply only to multiple surfer heats or One on One in non-priority situations. In One on One it remains as one-person one wave no exceptions, ie a surfer has priority. See rule 5J for clarification.

7. Paddling Interference

In three or four man heats or non-priority one on one situations, another waveski surfer paddling for the same wave should not excessively hinder a waveski surfer who has inside position.

Paddling interference may be called if;

- i) The offending waveski surfer makes contact with or forces the inside waveski surfer to change their line whilst paddling to catch the wave causing possible loss of scoring potential.
- ii) The offending waveski surfer obviously causes a section to break down in front of the inside which would not normally have done so and by causing loss of scoring potential.
- iii) When a waveski surfer is paddling out they must make every effort to get out of the way if a collision happens or a surfers wave is hindered due to this, it is up to a majority of the judges to call interference on whether it is felt to be accidental or not.
- vi) When paddling out from the beach, and when in the lineup if two waveski surfers make contact, the judges may penalize with in an interference the waveski surfer who is deemed to be the aggressor.

8. Interference Penalty

If a majority of judges call interference, then that wave will count in the final tally as a zero score. This applies to a riding or a paddling interference, where the waveski surfer catches that particular wave. The majority of the Judges must call interference for a penalty to be applied. If a majority of Judges call interference, then in the final tally, the following penalties will apply –

In best two waves - the second wave will be scored half of its potential points;

If a waveski surfer has less than the required minimum scoring rides ie one wave and receives an interference then they will be scored half of this wave.

Interference will be shown as a triangle ‘ Δ ‘ on each judges scorecard.

The triangle is placed around their score is caused by riding; above their score if in riding a wave and causing interference while paddling for that wave ridden; or between scores if caused by paddling for that ride) with an arrow drawn to the riders score who was interfered on.

Any interfering waveski surfer must be penalised and a drop-in decision can only be disputed by making an official protest.

Where any waveski surfer incurs 2 or more interference penalties they must immediately leave the competition area. Failure to do so will result in a fine or disqualification.

SECTION 7 : DUTIES OF THE TABULATOR

On the receipt of the completed Judges sheets at the end of a heat the Tabulators will immediately check to see if:

- a) All the Judges sheets have been handed in
- b) That the correct number of waves have been scored on each sheet, and
- c) That any interference calls have been recorded.

In the event that an interference call is recorded by the majority of Judges, the Tabulator will notify the Contest Director of this fact.

If a ride has been missed, an attempt will be made to identify the missing ride by referring to other Judges sheets, under the direction of the Head Judge or Contest Director.

If the ride is identified to the satisfaction of the Head Judge, then a score is given to the ride by:

- Averaging the scores awarded by other Judges for the ride.

The tabulator, when satisfied that the best attempt has been made to establish the correct value of the missed ride, will ensure that this value is written on the Judging Sheet. Where an interference is ruled and the waveski surfers appeal is dismissed then an Interference penalty is tabulated by applying the provisions of SECTION 5: INTERFERENCE

CALLS.

On completion of these formalities, the Judges sheets may be totalled. The two best scoring waves will be circled and the total entered in the section for top waves. These scores are totalled, any interference penalties deducted and a total entered in the total column. The heat places are then calculated and entered on the Judges sheet.

The waveski surfer with the highest score will receive 1st place, the second highest score 2nd place and so on, if a Judge ties two or more surfers, the tie will be broken by looking at the highest scoring wave, if necessary move on to the next highest scoring wave and so on until the tie is broken.

When no further calculations are required on the Judges sheets the results are transcribed onto a Tally Sheet, and then the results and progressions are marked on the contest boards.

SECTION 8 : STATISTICALLY EVALUATING JUDGING PERFORMANCE

The level of accuracy of a judge is measured by comparing the placing given by a judge in a particular heat against the actual placing in that heat, provided that, where a judge has failed to call an interference that has been ruled by a majority of judges, the level of accuracy of such judge, shall be measured by comparing placings given by such judge, exclusive of the interference penalty, against the actual heat placing.

The evaluation is made on all the competitors in the heat from first place to last place. A perfect score is a zero and is awarded to a Judge who has correctly placed all the competitors in the heat.

One point is added to a Judges score for each place error made. In other words if the Judges placing is subtracted from the actual placing - or vice versa as the case may be - the difference is the Judges degree of error.

The Judges score is then entered in the appropriate column on the Tabulation Sheet and then recorded on the Judges record sheet. A Judges accuracy is then calculated by dividing their score by the number of heats judged. In making this evaluation the number of heats judged by each Judge should not vary by more than 10%.

A practical evaluation should also be made and weighed against the statistics when deciding the competence of a judge. This should include such things as the ability to discern between interference situations.

Note due to personnel and time constraints, this system normally will only be applied at Australian Open.

SECTION 9: EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Procedures

In the event of a surfer in difficulties the contest director/s present decides if it is necessary to stop the heat. They will instruct that the hooter is sounded continuously and the red flag will be waved until all competitors appeared to have seen and heard the signal.

All competitors in the water may assist the surfer in difficulties if they are able to do so safely. The rescue buoy or other rescue craft and wave skis will be used by competent surfers as requested by the contest director and/or the committee. The judges (as the people who are most focused on the surfers in the heat) should draw the contest director's attention to any surfer who appears to be having difficulty or has lost their ski or signalling some other danger such as a shark.

The designated Beach Safety Officer in collaboration with the Contest Director for the contest will coordinate triage procedures. Please refer to separate section on emergency first aid.

In the event of a shark sighting the hooter will be sounded continuously and the black flag will be waved, all surfers are to exit the water as soon as possible. If a surfer sights the shark from the water they should warn other competitors if possible and signal to the beach by raising their paddle horizontally and then exit the water as soon as possible. If available a drone should be used to check if the shark has moved on or high vantage points used to give a clear view of the water. As much as possible other water users should also be warned and if a surf lifesaver is located nearby they also should be advised.

The heat will be stopped at the time of the emergency (surfer in difficulty and/or shark sighting). The Contest Director will decide when the emergency is over and it is considered safe to return to the water. The heat will run for any of the time remaining from when it was stopped when all the surfers are back in position for the completion of that heat.

Appendix 1

Divisions where there are 5 or less competitors

Scope

Divisions with 2, 3, 4 or 5 competitors facilitated at World Waveski Surfing Titles where a result is obtained over 3 rounds.

Purpose

Clarifying how results are calculated and managed across the 3 rounds.

Considerations

Where a division/category has a maximum of only 2, 3, 4 or 5 competitors, there is discretion to conduct the competition as a straight Final or across 3 Rounds. This will be determined by event operations and scheduling.

No scope to run repechage rounds with 5 or less competitors. It becomes necessary to run an odd number of heats/rounds as there is a high risk of draws and countback situations occurring if only 2 rounds are held.

If competition occurs across multiple rounds, such shall be over a minimum of 3 Rounds, no less.

This ensures the surfer with the highest consistent average placing over multiple rounds is determined the winner with minor placings determined in the same manner thereafter.

Method

Surfers compete in 3 different heats / finals. Scheduling is at the discretion of Contest Director

Each round is to be viewed as the equivalent of a final. The rounds may not necessarily be of similar duration (i.e. 20, 25 or 30 minutes).

Each surfer **MUST** wear the same colour contest rash top each time they compete. **The colours below are for illustrative purposes only.**

Judging occurs the same as any other heat within the event. Wave scores are tabulated and the score totals determines the result of the heat with placings identified for each surfers colour.

EXAMPLES (Where there are 5 surfers in the division)

SURFER COLOUR	ROUND 1 PLACES
PINK	2
YELLOW	1
BLUE	5
WHITE	4
BLACK	1

In round 1, BLACK has won the first heat. Two further heats/rounds are held until a total of 3 rounds are completed and each surfer has a result in each round.

SURFER COLOUR	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
PINK	2	3	2
YELLOW	1	2	1
BLUE	5	1	5
WHITE	4	5	4
BLACK	3	4	3

The focus now shifts onto the accumulative totals relative to the placing each surfer achieved within all of their heats.

Note, these are not judges scores but final position placings in each heat/round. The highest and lowest placings are **not** dropped as this method may have already previously occurred within the tabulation of wave scores (where there are 5 judges) to arrive at final placings within each heat/round. Eliminating of Highest / Lowest placing contradicts the principle of identifying consistency in performance and is not applied.

EXAMPLES (Where there are 5 surfers in the division)

RED: $2^{\text{nd}} + 3^{\text{rd}} + 2^{\text{nd}} = 7$ (placings total)

WHITE : $1^{\text{st}} + 2^{\text{nd}} + 1^{\text{st}} = 4$ (placings total)

SURFER COLOUR	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	TOTAL
PINK	2	3	2	7
YELLOW	1	2	1	4
BLUE	5	1	5	11
WHITE	4	5	4	13
BLACK	3	4	3	10

The principle applied is that the lower combined total of placings will reflect the surfer who achieved a consistently higher placing across all 3 rounds relative to the performance of the other surfers. Therefore demonstrating they have been the stronger performing competitor on average. Conversely, a higher total of placings will reflect where surfers consistently placed in the minor positions.

In the example below, YELLOW (1^{st}) with the lowest total of placings has achieved consistently higher placings than the other surfers across the 3 rounds contested (a 1^{st} , 2^{nd} and 1^{st}). Note that YELLOW has not won all 3 heats/rounds but has demonstrated stronger overall performance based on consistency in the places achieved. Note that despite BLUE winning round 2, their overall performance across all rounds was consistently in the minor placings. Accordingly, based on Final Place Totals, PINK (2^{nd}) is the next higher performing surfer followed by BLACK (3^{rd}), BLUE (4^{th}), WHITE (5^{th})

SURFER COLOUR	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	TOTAL	<u>FINAL PLACE</u>
PINK	2	3	2	7	2^{nd}
YELLOW	1	2	1	4	1^{st}
BLUE	5	1	5	11	4^{th}
WHITE	4	5	4	13	5^{th}
BLACK	3	4	3	10	3^{rd}

Contingencies

What is the impact of time, weather and hazards etc... that prevents from all rounds being run ?

One Round Only - When only one round can be held, that round is regarded as the Final.

Two Rounds Only - If only 2 rounds are held and a third round is unable to be run, the same principle is applied as above where the lowest placings total is determined to be the winner.

If a Draw exists between 2 surfers based on placings totals, the next method is to review individual wave scores for ALL waves on their judging sheets (not the average score for each wave) in order to separate the surfers in a countback situation. If this method fails to separate the surfers beyond this approach, then only in such circumstances may a surf-off be considered for the 2 affected surfers.

Appendix 2 - Gradings for AWS Events including the Australian Open

Open A grade (mixed gender; male and female)

For riders who are:

Able to demonstrate expertise surfing in challenging conditions ie head to over head high surf closeouts

Able to paddle out through heavy waves

Competent with eskimo rolling and recovery from a wipeout

Able to execute a full range of manouvres in the critical section of the wave including but not limited to

- Top turn
- Bottom turn
- Re-entry; ramping off the white water
- Aerials

Consistently scores in the 5-7 plus points range;

Qualifiers (mixed gender; male and female)

For riders who are:

Able to safely surf in moderate conditions ie waist to chest high

Competent with eskimo rolling or working towards same

Competent with paddling back out through white water or working towards same

Able to undertake a series of manouvres in the critical section of the wave including but not limited to

- Top turn
- Bottom turn
- Re-entry; ramping off the white water

Consistently scores in the 3.5 plus points range;

Challengers (mixed gender; male and female)

For riders who are:

Able to surf in safe - moderate conditions ie waist high, fattish waves, with definite peaks, excluding closeouts

Able to undertake a series of basic manouvres in the section of the wave that isn't the critical part such as towards the shoulder including but not limited to

- Top turn
- Bottom turn
- Competent with eskimo rolling, but not consistent with this skill and/ or working towards same
- Competent with paddling back out through white water but not consistent with this skill and/ or working towards same

Consistently scores in the 2-3.5 points range;

Appendix 4

Points Table

1st -	1000
2nd -	860
3rd -	730
4th -	670
5th -	610
6th -	583
7th -	555
8th -	528
9th -	500
10th -	488
11th -	475
12th -	450

Appendix 5 – Accreditation Criteria

- Acknowledgement of the event on social media websites and WWSA website - Use of WWSA logo in promotional material and able to state 'Proudly Accredited by the WWSA'
- Indemnifies the WWSA from any claims ie financial loss, adverse outcomes; injuries and accidents/incidents
- Financial Member of the WWSA and of good standing (ie no previous adverse findings)
- One (1) accredited event per calendar year per member nation; with a maximum of two (2) accredited events between WWSA Surfing Titles (WWST)
- One (1) accredited event per calendar year per region ie Africa, South America, North America, Australia/New Zealand, Europe with a maximum of two (2) accredited events between WWSA Surfing Titles (WWST).
- Application for accreditation to be no less than three (3) months prior to the date of advertised competition
- Accredited event must be completed no less than 3 months before the date of the next (WWST).
- minimum of ten (10)days between accredited events
- Compliance with the current WWSA Competition Rule Book at time of the competition
- Indemnifies the WWSA from any claims ie financial loss, adverse outcomes; injuries and accidents
- Open for all international competitors from WWSA member nations to compete
- Event venue; premium surf location - accessible for competitors of all ages and ability
- All divisions and categories to be offered noting that the priority categories are the Open Men's and Open Women's. Noting that consideration is given to changing the descriptor from Open Men's to Open where there are 5 women or less competing and at contest committee's discretion. The age and adaptive divisions must align with the current WWSA competition rule book.
- The Highest points obtained from one (1) event held during the period from one WWST to the next WWST will contribute towards rankings and seeds for the next WWST noting that the maximum number of points is 50% of the coefficient ie 1000 points. With further explanation, countries and regions are able to run more than one (1) event during the period between WWST titles with the highest result contributing towards a competitor's ranking.
- There must be provision in the event format to enable all divisions and categories to be run and completed within the advertised time frame.
- Live Heat format; aligned with WWSA live heat system - The WWSA International Contest Director (ITCD) must review approve the draw and flow for all the divisions no less than ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the competition.
- The priority system is to be implemented for all heats, divisions and categories.

- Non competing accredited judges with waveski judging experience – with no less than four (4) judges one of who is the Head Judge.
- Non competing contest director and/or contest committee with an independent ‘juror’ to adjudicate on protests and mitigate any compromise to the event.
- Daily updates and briefing for all competitors and officials in both English and local language – including announcement during the event proper eg Rider in Pink you have priority; Rider in Yellow you need 3.1 points to move into first place etc.

**Reviewed, revised and updated
February 2026**